Operator Training

Releases



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Responding to Releases

A Release is defined as any:

- Spilling
- Leaking
- Emitting
- Discharging
- Escaping
- Leaching
- Disposing

...from an underground storage tank into groundwater, surface water or soil

Suspected Releases

A suspected release means there are signs that a release may have occurred but further investigation is needed to provide evidence of the release. These signs may include:

- Discovery by anyone of released fuel at the UST site or in the surrounding area,
- 2. Unusual operating conditions of equipment, and/or
- Release detection results that indicate a release may have occurred

The following pages will provide more detail on these situations.

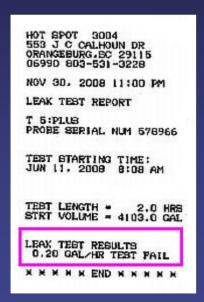
1. Released fuel at the UST or in the surrounding area:

- Puddle of fuel on the ground
- Stained soil
- Fuel slick on top of a body of water
- Fuel smell in a sewer, a basement or utility lines

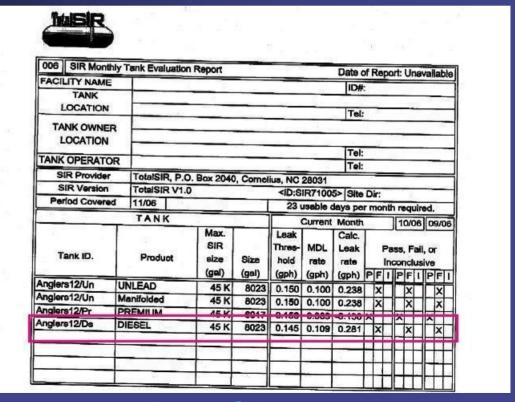
2. Unusual operating conditions of equipment:

- "Slow-flow" at the dispensers
- Sudden loss of fuel or water from the tank
- Sudden increase of fuel or water in the tank
- High water alarm on an Automatic Tank Gauge
- Pump shut down by an Electronic Line Leak
 Detector

3. Release detection results that indicate a release may have occurred



Failing ATG slip



Failing SIR report

Ways to Investigate

If one of the suspected release conditions is found, further investigation by the owner and/or operator is needed immediately to prove whether or not a release has actually occurred:

Ways to Investigate

 Owners and operators must conduct tank tightness tests and/or line tightness tests to determine if a leak exists

OR

 Owners and operators must perform a site check (soil or water sample) and measure for the presence of a release where contamination is most likely to be present at the UST site

EZY 3 LOCATOR PLIS MANUACTURE DE STANSPORT N.C. 1-877-848-72 (5 DATE	PBS # [NEW YORK]		
		X TIGHT TANK THIS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK ULLAGE (DRY) PORTION LI THIS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK BELOW PRODUCT LEVEL (*) THIS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK WATER SENSC	FAILS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE U.S. EPA. WETT) PORTION LEAK PAILS THE CRITERIA SET FORTH BY THE U.S. EPA. OR INDICATES: DILY ONE;
		Operator Information;	
		rini Name	Certification #
		on Name	Expiration Date
		Qui redine	Telephone #
esting Firm			



If at any point the investigation determines that a release did in fact occur,

Call the Department within 72 hours.

(803) 896-7957





Definition of an Emergency

- Situation that requires immediate action to protect human health and/or the environment (fuel on the ground, fuel flowing on the ground, fuel spraying from a dispenser)
- Alarms caused by spills or releases from an underground storage tank system
- Significant release of fuel aboveground or a fire related to fuel (fiery fuel gushing from where a dispenser was a moment ago)

How to Respond to Emergencies Caused by a Open Release (ongoing)

- If there is a fire, call 911 first
- If there is NO fire, attempt to first stop the release
- Control the release
- Call 911
- Call DHEC Emergency Response, 1-888-481-0125
- Call your office or boss
- Control traffic and people to minimize danger
- Clean-up and investigate the release (abatement)
- Call DHEC Division of UST Management within 72 hours, 803-896-7957

1. Stop the release

(Stop the flow of fuel into the environment)

Cut power to the submersible pumps – Hit the Emergency Stop button or breaker for pumps

If a delivery is overfilling a tank, tell the delivery driver to turn off control valves on the side of the tanker

2. Control the Release

When the scene is determined to be safe, use a spill kit, kitty litter, absorbent pads, sand bags, and/or dirt to keep the spill from leaving the property, going into a storm drain, or on the grass.





3. CALL 911!

(Request fire, police, and medical as needed)







4. Call DHEC Emergency Response

1-888-481-0125





Abate the Release

After the excitement dies down, there are several steps that the owner and/or operator must take to minimize damage to the environment. These actions are called abatement.

- Pump out the tanks to a point that no more fuel can leave the tank system
- Make sure that any released fuel stays where it is and does not cause more contamination
- Monitor and control any fire or safety hazards
- Contain contaminated soils to prevent them from washing away
- Perform a site check (soil or water samples) to determine the damage caused by the release
- Investigate to determine the cause of the release and whether this situation can be prevented in the future

Responding to Releases

Always pay very close attention to all aspects of the underground storage tank system. Fuel can be released during a delivery, while a car is fueling, any time of day or night. Pay attention to all alarms both visual and audible. If a release does occur, it should be caught quickly enough to minimize the amount of damage caused.

